(c) what schemes have been launched for the benefit of farmers and what is the status of implementation of those schemes in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Bundelkhand region; and

(d) the status of private investment in this sector and what facilities of direct marketing have been launched for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 12,023 crore has been allocated to DARE/ICAR for Research and Development in Agriculture during the Eleventh Plan.

(c) In order to ensure that 4 per cent growth in the agriculture sector is achieved during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, in addition to ongoing schemes, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched two schemes (i) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for Rs. 25000 crore and (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Rs. 4883 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to increase production and productivity in the agriculture sector. An amount of Rs. 315.33 crore under RKVY and Rs. 253.03 crore under NFSM has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh during 2009-10. The Districts of (Jalaun, (ii) Chitrakoot, (iii) Lalitpur, (iv) Hamirpur, (v) Mahoba and (vi) Jhansi of the Bundelkhand Region have been covered under NFSM.

(d) The Government has proposed to enter into partnership with the private sector to strengthen agricultural infrastructure. The areas identified for private investment are Agriculture Marketing and Horticulture. In addition, under the Scheme of Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Promotion and Distribution of Quality Seed, private companies, individual entrepreneurs, self help groups, etc. are given credit linked back ended capital subsidy. Since 2005-06 an amount of Rs. 12 crore has been released to the National Seeds Corporation and they have sanctioned 205 projects.

For direct marketing States have to amend their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts. The State of Uttar Pradesh has not been notified for implementation of the scheme of "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" since the requisite reforms have not been introduced in the State.

Direct benefits of subsidy to farmers

†2289. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer companies are taking the advantages of fertilizer subsidy meant for the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is formulating any policy which provides for extending the benefits of subsidy directly to the farmers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The fertilizer subsidy is transferred to the farmers in the form of subsidized Maximum Retail Price of fertilizers which is below the normated delivered cost at farm gate level. The fertilizer subsidy is finally released to the fertilizer companies on confirmation of receipt of subsidized fertilizers by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The Government intends to move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime instead of the current nutrient based pricing regime, in order to ensure balanced application of fertilizers and increase in agricultural productivity, which can consequently lead to better returns to the farmers. However, no final decision has been taken yet.

Check on use of agriculture land for other purpose

2290. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ensure that fertile land which is used for agriculture purpose in various parts of the country particularly in Haryana and Punjab will not be used for industrial/housing purposes; and

(b) if so, what immediate steps will be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, Agriculture, Water and Land fall under the purview of the State Governments and, therefore, it is for the State Governments to bring suitable Act/Legislation to protect the use of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes including housing and industries, etc.

Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture has formulated the National Policy for Farmers, 2007 (NPF-2007) which envisaged Asset Reforms to empower farmers. The purpose of the Asset Reforms is to ensure that every farmer household in villages possess and/or has access to productive asset like land/livestock, fishpond, homestead farm and/or income through an enterprise and/or market-driven skills, so that the household income is increased substantially on a sustainable basis. This, in turn, would ensure nutrition and livelihood security and their education and health requirements. The NPF-2007 has also advised for:—

(i) Considering the skewed ownership of land, it is necessary to strengthen implementation of laws relating to land reforms, with particular reference to tenancy laws, and leasing, distribution of ceiling surplus land and wasteland, providing adequate access to common property and wasteland resources and the consolidation of holdings. Following the conferment of land rights to women under the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, the provision of appropriate support